

PROFESSORSHIP OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

ALEXANDER WOOD, M.D.,

FELLOW AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,  
AND LECTURER ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE EXTRA-  
ACADEMICAL SCHOOL OF EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH,

MAY 1852.



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TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I have the honor very humbly and respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, vacant by the lamented death of the late Dr. William Thomson.

I shall have the honor of laying before you, in a few days, satisfactory Testimonials of my fitness for this office from various eminent medical and scientific men.

Meanwhile I may state, that after receiving a complete Classical education at the Edinburgh Academy and University, I entered as a student of medicine in the justly celebrated Medical School of the latter. Twice, during my studies, I was elected President of the Royal Medical Society,—the highest honour which a medical student can obtain. I graduated on the 1st August 1839, and was honourably distinguished in the list on that occasion. Immediately after my graduation I became one of the Medical Officers to the Stockbridge Dispensary and Lying-in Institution; and subsequently, to the Royal Public Dispensary. This latter office I continued to hold until 1847, when the increasing extent of my private practice compelled me to resign it; and having been successful in securing a liberal share of public confidence, I have thus had ample opportunities of practice in every department of my profession,—a condition which humbly appears to me to be essential in a teacher of the *Practice* of Medicine.

In November 1840, I was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; and have been chosen, on four several occasions, one of the Council of Seven of that body. Further, in April 1850, I was elected to fill the responsible office of Honorary Secretary to the Royal College of Physicians,—the duties of which office I continue to discharge.

When the Royal College resolved to send a deputation to London to represent their views in regard to the Pharmacy Bill, I was one of the two Fellows selected for that purpose; and it may possibly occur to your recollection, that I, along with the deputations from other bodies, had the honor of an interview with you on the 27th of April last.

In 1841 I commenced lecturing on the Practice of Medicine in the Medical School here; and I have since continued to deliver annually a regular six months' course on this subject,—*the special department of Medical Science to which the vacant Chair is devoted*. Of the manner in which this duty has been performed, it would not become me to speak. On this point I refer to the Testimonials of many eminent medical men; but especially to a few which have been received from former Members of my Class, now settled in various parts of the kingdom, and to the spontaneous tribute offered me by the gentlemen who attended my class last session.

In order suitably to illustrate these lectures, I secured, at a considerable outlay, the Museum of the late Dr. Mackintosh, well known to be rich in almost every kind of diseased structure, and especially remarkable for the beautiful drawings which it contains; and to this I have been making constant additions. Should I be so fortunate as to obtain the appointment to Glasgow, the benefit of this Museum would of course be enjoyed by the Students of its University.

Besides numerous contributions to the medical journals, extending from 1839 to the present time,—several of which have been republished, both in America and in the annual digests of professional progress issued in this country,—I have

published several separate works ; and I will have the honor of laying before you the opinions of the medical press and of my professional brethren on these.

Should the evidence I have thus the honor of submitting to you, induce you to confer on me the vacant appointment, I need scarcely add, that the most strenuous exertions will be used on my part fully to vindicate your choice, and to promote in every way the prosperity of the University of Glasgow, and the advancement of its School of Medicine.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient humble Servant,

ALEX. WOOD, M.D.

EDINBURGH, 19 ROYAL CIRCUS,  
17th *May* 1852.





# MEMORANDUM

OF SOME OF

## DR. ALEXANDER WOOD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDICAL JOURNALS.

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- I. Case of Poisoning with Corrosive Sublimate.—*Edin. Med. and Surg. Journal*, 1839.
- II. On the Pathology and Treatment of Leucorrhoea.—*Scottish Medical Gazette*, February 1844.
- III. On the Treatment of Acute Rheumatism.—*Northern Journal of Medicine*, May 1844.
- IV. On Diseases of the Skin.—*A Review*, *Ibid*, June 1844.
- V. Notice of a Case of Alleged Luminous Appearance on the Hand and other Parts of the Body before Death.—*Ibid*, October 1844.
- VI. Review of “Dr. M’William’s Medical History of the Expedition to the Niger.”—*Ibid*, January 1845.
- VII. Proposal to Treat Protracted Mammary Abscess by the Breast-Pump and Syringe.—*Ibid*.
- VIII. Miss Martineau’s Alleged Cure by Mesmerism.—*Ibid*.
- IX. On the Appearance of the Tongue as Diagnostic of Diseases.—*Ibid*, March 1845.
- X. Observations and Suggestions in Medicine.—*A Review*, *Ibid*, April 1845.
- XI. Survey of the Recent Literature of the History and Treatment of Bright’s Disease of the Kidney.—*Ibid*, July, August, September, October, November, December.
- XII. On the Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption.—*A Review*, *Ibid*, October 1845.
- XIII. Case of Puerperal Convulsions following the Exhibition of Ether.—*London Medical Gazette*, 1846.
- XIV. On the Laws Regulating the Development of Monstrosities.—*Transactions of British Association*, 1850.

- XV. Contributions towards the Study of certain Phenomena, which have been recently denominated "Experiments in Electro-Biology."—*Edinburgh Monthly Journal*, 1851.
- XVI. Case of Fatal Poisoning with Oxalic Acid.—*Ibid*, February 1852.

[This list only includes Dr. Wood's principal contributions. Many minor ones, several of which appear in the Proceedings of the Medico-Chirurgical and Transactions of the Obstetrical Societies, are not noticed.]

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## SEPARATE PUBLICATIONS BY DR. WOOD.

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### I.

## HOMŒOPATHY UNMASKED;

Being an EXPOSURE of its PRINCIPAL ABSURDITIES and CONTRADICTIONS; with an ESTIMATE of ITS RECORDED CURES. 12mo.

"Dr. Wood has acquitted himself in a masterly way, and wrestles with the homœopathists, especially those of Edinburgh, like a giant."—*London Medical Gazette*.

"We congratulate Dr. Wood on the ability which he has displayed, both as a writer and as a reasoner, in the little work now before us. His style is pungent, and his arguments are logically irrefragible."—*London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*.

"An able exposition of the unsound and unscientific doctrines of the homœopathists. . . . We earnestly recommend a careful perusal of Dr. Wood's book."—*Literary Gazette*.

"The author has proved his position, that homœopathy is something worse than nonsense."—*Athenæum*.

"Dr. Wood's excellent little work."—*Dublin Journal of Medical Science*.

"Dr. Alexander Wood's very clever pamphlet."—*British and Foreign Medical Review*.

"An admirable work."—*Fraser's Magazine*.

"A masterly exposure of homœopathic absurdities."—*Provincial Medical Transactions*.

"A conclusive *reductio ad absurdum*."—*Dr. Symonds of Bristol*.

"His arguments are as legitimate as they are convincing."—*Northern Journal of Medicine*.

## II.

**SEQUEL TO HOMŒOPATHY UNMASKED.**

12mo.

## III.

**RATIONAL MEDICINE: A VINDICATION.**

The Address delivered at the Opening of the New School of Medicine,  
Surgeon's Hall, November 6, 1849. Crown 8vo.

"We very cordially recommend this address to the notice of our readers. It is alike admirable in design and in execution, and we do not know any similar production which we could with more satisfaction place in the hands of the student."—*London Journal of Medicine*.

"Dr. Wood has made the vindication of the claims of medicine to be considered as a science as the chief object of his lecture; and this he has done, in the presence of a mixed and learned audience, in a manner which equally reflects credit upon himself and upon his profession."—*Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

"This is a very eloquent discourse, pointing out the legitimate objects of medicine, its limits, its high claims, its aspects, the means it places in our hands for the relief of suffering, and the scientific spirit in which it should be cultivated."—*London Medical Gazette*.

"The lecture contains a great deal of instructive observation, addressed to the student, accompanied with much ingenious and eloquent illustration of the topics introduced."—*London Medical Times*.

"Dr. Wood's eloquent address."—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Review*.

"Good service will be rendered to the practice of rational medicine by the very able lecture of Dr. Wood."—*Lancet*.

## IV.

**WHAT IS MESMERISM?**

An ATTEMPT to EXPLAIN its PHENOMENA on the ADMITTED PRINCIPLES of PHYSIOLOGICAL and PSYCHICAL SCIENCE.

"We cannot omit this opportunity of congratulating Messrs. Braid, Bennet, and Wood, upon their efforts to place mesmerism and mesmeric doings in their true position,—in a way calculated to reach and to enlighten the popular mind. . . . We may be excused in quoting Dr. Wood's general conclusions in regard to the anatomical relations of this inquiry."—*British and Foreign Med.-Chir. Review*.





# TESTIMONIALS.

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## PART I.

### PROFESSORS IN BRITISH AND IRISH UNIVERSITIES.

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#### I.

*From JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D., F.R.S.E., President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh; Physician-Accoucheur to the Queen in Scotland, &c.*

EDINBURGH, 17th May 1852.

Several excellent and eligible Candidates for the Chair of the Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow have already appeared. But without in the least degree disparaging the great merits of any of the other candidates, I may be allowed to state, that I do believe Dr. Alexander Wood to have the strongest possible claims for the vacant Professorship.

For several years past Dr. Wood has Lectured successfully in the Medical School here, on the department of Medical Science which forms the special subject of the vacant Chair; and has thus already had, in reference to this department, a large share of experience as a Teacher.

He has published a variety of essays on subjects pertaining more or less to the same department, and is everywhere well known and esteemed as a medical Author.

For years past he has assiduously and zealously devoted

himself to the Practice of his Profession; and has, for his age, enjoyed an unusual amount of experience as a medical Practitioner.

I never had an opportunity of hearing Dr. Wood lecture, but I have often heard him speak in our medical societies and meetings; and for facility, fluency, and force of expression, he is equalled by few, and surpassed, I think, in these respects, by none of our profession in Edinburgh as a public Speaker.

Let me add, that Dr. Wood possesses the most excellent business habits, as he has proved by the very admirable mode in which he has discharged the varied duties of the Secretaryship of the Royal College of Physicians; and these habits would be found, I believe, of no small value to his colleagues, provided he be selected to fill the vacant Chair.

J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D.

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## II.

*From WILLIAM PULTENEY ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, and First Physician to Her Majesty in Scotland.*

EDINBURGH, 14th May 1852.

Having frequently met with Dr. Alexander Wood in consultation, both on individual cases and on matters of medical police, and being likewise aware of his ability and experience, for many years past, as a Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, I feel no difficulty in expressing the opinion, that his talents and acquirements, and his habits of arranging and communicating his thoughts, fully qualify him for the office of Professor of the Practice of Medicine.

W. P. ALISON, M.D.

## III.

*From JAMES SYME, Esq., Fellow, and formerly President, of the Royal College of Surgeons; Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh; Author of "Principles of Surgery," &c. &c.*

EDINBURGH, 14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter I gladly bear testimony to the zeal and success with which you have taught the Practice of Physic in the Extra-Academic School of Edinburgh. The talents—energy—and practical skill which have characterized your exertions here, would, I am sure, enable you to occupy the Chair now vacant in Glasgow with distinguished success.—I remain, my dear Sir, very truly yours,  
JAMES SYME.

## IV.

*From THOMAS STEWART TRAILL, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I have much satisfaction in offering my testimony to your high character as a gentleman and intelligent Physician, and as a teacher of Practical Medicine of several years' standing.

Under these circumstances I can have no hesitation in stating my opinion of your eminent qualifications to fill the Chair now vacant in the University of Glasgow by the death of my lamented friend, Dr. William Thomson.

With best wishes for your success, I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

THOS. STEWART TRAILL.



## V.

*From JOHN HUTTON BALFOUR, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., Professor of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh, Author of a "Manual of Botany," &c. &c.*

Dr. Alexander Wood has been long known to me as an able and distinguished medical man. He has devoted his attention especially to the Practice of Physic, and has lectured with success on this department of medicine in the Extra-Academical School of Edinburgh. His lectures display a thorough knowledge of the subject, and great powers of communicating information. He is an eloquent speaker, and an able writer; and he is, in my opinion, well qualified for the duties of Professor of Practice of Physic.

J. H. BALFOUR, M.D.,

*Professor of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh.*

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## VI.

*From ROBERT JAMESON, Esq., Regius Professor of Natural History, Lecturer on Mineralogy, and Keeper of the Museum in the University of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, of the Royal Society of Sciences of Denmark, of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin, &c.*

21 ROYAL CIRCUS, May 14, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—As I am not a medical practitioner I consider a testimonial from me in your favour would appear very presumptuous on my part, and could not in any way forward your views in regard to the Chair of Practical Medicine in the College of Glasgow. But I know well, that eminent medical practitioners—the only legitimate judges in recommending to a Chair of Practical Medicine—are of opinion, that your distinguished talent, great energy, and extensive knowledge,

fully entitle you to offer yourself as a Candidate, and with great prospect of success, for the very important professorship formerly held by my late friend, Dr. William Thomson.—Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

ROBERT JAMESON.

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VII.

*From WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Esq., Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Fellow of the Royal Society; Professor of Surgery, King's College; Surgeon to King's College Hospital; Surgeon in Ordinary to H. R. H. Prince Albert; Author of a System of Practical Surgery, &c.*

16 GEORGE STREET, HANOVER SQUARE,  
15th May, 1852.

I have known Dr. Alexander Wood for many years, and have long considered him an able and accomplished Physician.

I have frequently heard the most favourable reports of his zeal and ability as a Teacher; and I have much confidence in stating, that in my opinion he is highly qualified to fill the Chair of Practice of Physic now vacant in the University of Glasgow.

WILLIAM FERGUSSON, F.R.S.,  
*Professor of Surgery in King's College, London.*

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VIII.

*From JOHN MACROBIN, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Marischal College, Aberdeen; Author of "Introduction to the Study of Practical Medicine," &c.*

ABERDEEN, 15th May, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to comply with your request, and now beg to state that I consider you to be



highly qualified for the office now vacant in the Glasgow University.

You have already established for yourself a high character as a Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the School of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; and your writings prove that, with all the other requisites for honourably and efficiently discharging the very important duties of the Chair to which you aspire, you possess an ample amount of talent and scholarship, with an ardent and enlightened zeal for the advancement of a truly scientific system of medicine, from a sense of its vast benefits to all classes of the community. In a word, I think that your general character, talents, acquirements, and experience, as well as your past services in the particular department of medical science belonging to the vacant Chair, give you the highest claim to the appointment.—I remain, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

J. MACROBIN, M.D.,

*Professor of Medicine, Marischal College,  
University, Aberdeen.*

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## IX.

*From SAMUEL WRIGHT, M.D., LL.D., D.C., Professor of Clinical Medicine and of Materia Medica in Queen's College, Birmingham; Physician to Queen's Hospital; Corresponding Member of Imperial Academy of Physicians of Vienna; Author of numerous Medical Works, some of which have been translated into French, Italian, German, Dutch, and Latin.*

HAYLEY HOUSE, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM,  
15th May 1852.

I certify that I have known Dr. Alexander Wood for the last fourteen years. Our acquaintance commenced in the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, where Dr. A. Wood signally distinguished himself in the debates of that learned institution. It is an honour, on my own part, to say, that I was his fellow-President therein. I am intimately acquainted with Dr. A. Wood's mental acquirements and capabilities. I -



most sincerely believe them to deserve the highest praise. In the practical part of his profession, I have good reason to know that his *status* is of a very high order ; and as to his capabilities as a teacher, he will have few equals, unless very much changed since I last had the opportunity of listening to his lucid eloquence. I am heartily of opinion, that the University of Glasgow will be greatly advantaged should Dr. A. Wood become its Professor of Practice of Medicine.

SAMUEL WRIGHT, M.D.

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X.

*From ALEXANDER FLEMING, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Queen's College, Cork; Examiner in Materia Medica, Queen's University, Ireland; formerly Editor of "Monthly Journal of Medical Science;" Author of "A Treatise on Aconite," "Medical Education," "Clinical Notes taken in the Hospitals of Vienna, Paris, and Prague."*

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK, May 17th, 1852.

I have very great pleasure in expressing my conviction that Dr. Wood is eminently qualified to discharge the duties of the Chair of Practice of Medicine now vacant in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Wood has afforded, in his published writings, most satisfactory proof of his capacity for original inquiry, and that he possesses a most extensive and accurate knowledge of this department of Medical education. He is characterized by indefatigable industry in the acquisition of knowledge, by sound criticism and systematic arrangement, and by his well-known readiness and clearness in communicating information to others. These important qualities have made Dr. Wood a most important and efficient Lecturer in Edinburgh; and I am satisfied that his appointment to the Glasgow University would be attended with signal advantage to its School of Medicine.

ALEXANDER FLEMING, M.D.

## PART II.

### FORMER TEACHERS OF MEDICINE IN EDINBURGH, AND LECTURERS ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN OTHER MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

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#### XI.

*From WILLIAM SELLER, M.D., F.R.S.E., Vice-President of the Royal College of Physicians; Vice-President Medico-Chirurgical Society; formerly Physician to the Royal Infirmary; and Editor of the "Northern Journal of Medicine," and Lecturer on Materia Medica and Dietetics.*

EDINBURGH, 13th May 1852.

I have known Dr. Alexander Wood ever since he was engaged as a student in the acquisition of medical knowledge. During the last ten years I have been in the habit of most frequent intercourse with him in the business of medical education, and in general professional pursuits; I have thus been able to form a decided opinion as to the great extent of his talents and acquirements, as well as to the very large share of zeal and energy which he brings to bear on what he undertakes to carry through.

Dr. Wood has lectured on the Practice of Medicine for ten years in the Edinburgh Extra-Academical Medical School with great success. He has been all along a favourite with his pupils,—his lectures being distinguished not merely by great research and observation, but by a popular fervent eloquence.

His published writings equally attest the turn of his mind for medical investigation and eloquent exposition.

On all these grounds, I am of opinion that few will be found better fitted to fill a Chair of Practice of Medicine than Dr. Wood.

WILLIAM SELLER, M.D.



## XII.

*From JOHN THATCHER, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children since 1816, Edinburgh Physician to the Lying-in Institution, &c., &c.*

14 PICARDY PLACE, 14th May 1852.

I have much pleasure in stating, that I have witnessed for some years Dr. Alexander Wood's attention to his profession, his activity and zeal both as a teacher and practitioner; and from the extensive opportunities he has had of cultivating medical science, he is thoroughly qualified to discharge every duty as a Professor of the Practice of Physic.

JOHN THATCHER, M.D., F.R.C.P.

## XIII.

*From PETER DAVID HANDYSIDE, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., late Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery, and Surgeon of the Royal Dispensary, and Royal Infirmary; Contributor of various Papers to the Medical Journals.*

Having enjoyed very ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the character and qualifications of Dr. Alexander Wood during a period of sixteen years, in his relations of Student and Practitioner of Medicine, and of Teacher of the Pathology and Practice of Medicine, I am fully satisfied that he is eminently qualified to discharge the duties of the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, with honour to himself and the profession, and greatly for the advantage of that ancient University.

P. D. HANDYSIDE.

## XIV.

*From JOHN MOIR, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Ordinary Physician Royal Maternity Hospital; Interim Professor of Midwifery, University of Edinburgh; Author of a Paper in Appendix to Dr. Hamilton's "Practical Observations," &c.*

52 CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH, 14th May 1832.

I have much pleasure in adding my testimony to the many others which I have no doubt Dr. Alexander Wood will receive as to his qualifications for the Chair of Practice of Physic, now vacant in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Wood, in addition to the extensive opportunities he has enjoyed of becoming acquainted with the Principles and Practice of Medicine, has the advantage of being a tried man as a Lecturer on that important subject; and he has proved that, in addition to a knowledge of his profession, he possesses the gift of readily and happily communicating that knowledge to others, and is consequently a favourite among the students.

He is also an excellent man of business, as evidenced, more especially lately, by his labours and exertions in connexion with his duties as Honorary Secretary of the College of Physicians here, to the value of which, I am satisfied, all the Fellows will bear testimony.

I have therefore no hesitation in stating my conviction, that Dr. Wood will, if elected to the vacant Chair, perform its duties in such a way as to do credit to the choice of the electors.

JOHN MOIR, M.D.

## XV.

*From DAVID SKAE, M.D., Physician to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane; formerly Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Extra-Academical School; Author of various contributions to the Medical Journals, &c.*

ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM,  
15th May 1852.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Alexander Wood for

upwards of fifteen years, have enjoyed many opportunities of becoming acquainted with his talents both as a public speaker and as a physician, and can therefore testify with confidence regarding his qualifications for the vacant Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Wood is a most excellent lecturer, being a ready and eloquent speaker, and conveying instruction with great clearness and impressiveness. He is thoroughly acquainted with this branch of Medicine, having long and successfully taught it in the Edinburgh Medical School. Dr. Wood is highly esteemed by his professional brethren for his varied knowledge of his profession, and has enjoyed the advantages of an active and extensive practice. As a contributor to medical literature, Dr. Wood also occupies an elevated place, having distinguished himself by various valuable papers, and more particularly by his masterly exposure of Homœopathy in a work called "*Homœopathy Unmasked*."

I believe Dr. Wood to be eminently qualified for all the duties of the Chair, and have no doubt that, if appointed, he will ably contribute to sustain the reputation of the Glasgow University as a School of Medicine.

DAVID SKAE, M.D.,  
*Physician, R.S.A.*

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## XVI.

*From* GEORGE GLOVER, Esq., L.R.C.S., *formerly Lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Medical Physics R. C. S. Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, 9 DUNDAS STREET,  
17th May 1852.

Having been requested by Dr. Alexander Wood to state my opinion of his qualifications for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, I take the opportunity of stating, from what I know of the zeal and ability with which he prosecuted the study of his profession in the early part of



his career, and the distinguished manner in which he has since discharged the various duties of his profession, and also from what I know of his experience and success as a Lecturer on Practice of Physic, as well as from the high estimation in which his abilities and acquirements are held by several of my friends to whom he is more intimately known, and on whose testimony I can place the utmost reliance, I consider his qualifications far superior to any of those with whom I am acquainted, and whose names I have heard mentioned in connexion with the Chair.

GEORGE GLOVER.

## XVII.

*From* THOMAS LAYCOCK, M.D., *Physician to the York Dispensary ; Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Medicine at the York Medical School ; Translator and Editor (at the request of the Sydenham Society) of Unzer's "First Principles of Physiology," and Prochaska's "Dissertation on the Nervous System ;" Author of a "Treatise on the Nervous Diseases of Women," an "Essay on the Reflex Function of the Brain," and various Contributions to the Medical Journals.*

YORK, 13th May 1852.

MY DEAR DR. WOOD,—I am extremely glad to hear that you are a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Medicine at Glasgow, and have much pleasure in expressing my conviction, that if elected to fill it, you will fulfil the duties with *zeal*, *energy*, and *talent*.—Believe me, my dear Dr. Wood, yours very truly,

T. LAYCOCK.

## XVIII.

*From* R. M. GLOVER, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Lecturer on Practice of Physic, College of Practical Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, &c.*

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in testifying to your attainments, and your qualifications for the Glasgow Chair of the Practice of Physic.

I have no doubt, from your writings, that you will teach medicine as it ought to be taught,—on a philosophic basis; and that you will guard the minds of your pupils from the heresies in our profession to which many of late have yielded.

I am also, as you are aware, from other sources, enabled to bear testimony to your general qualifications.—With best wishes, believe me, sincerely yours,

R. M. GLOVER, M.D., F.R.S.E.

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XIX.

*From EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D., Honorary Member of Royal Swedish Academy of Medicine; Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine at the Medical School, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Author of a "History of Scarlet Fever."*

7 ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,  
May 17th, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have heard with great pleasure that you are a Candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I do not believe that it would be possible to find any one more suited to that important office than yourself, not only as regards the name you have acquired by your writings, but from your personal qualities, and your well-known powers of communicating instruction. Though it is now some years since we met, I have not failed to recognize in your Papers and Essays in the different Journals the same enlightened mind and vigorous spirit which was so apparent in our former intercourse. I most sincerely, therefore, wish you success, not only on your own account, but because I feel sure that, in electing you to the vacant Chair, the University of Glasgow will not only preserve, but will materially lead to increase its standing among our Scientific Medical Institutions.—I remain, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.



## XX.

*From J. MOORE NELIGAN, M.D., Physician to Jervis Street Hospital; Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the Dublin School of Medicine; Member of the Royal Society, Dublin; Author of “Medicines, their Uses, and Modes of Administration,” “Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Scalp;” Editor of “Graves’ Clinical Lectures.”*

DUBLIN, May 15th, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—In complying with your request that I would state my opinion of your qualifications to fill the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the Glasgow University, I feel strongly that in your case private testimonials can scarcely be needed. To your merits the public voice of the profession has already amply testified, in the approval stamped upon your writings. In them you have shewn your talents, your industry, and your sound judgment; and they can bear witness for you. Yet my humble opinion of your professional acquirements is freely offered to your aid. These, when we were fellow-students, I learned to appreciate; and since then, as fellow-labourers, you have taught me to admire. The practice, all-important to a public lecturer, which you must have acquired in teaching during the several years you have delivered the course of Practice of Medicine in the School at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, peculiarly fits you to fill the Chair which you are now seeking for.—I remain, my dear Sir, sincerely yours,

J. MOORE NELIGAN.

## XXI.

*From H. BURFORD NORMAN, M.D., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to N. London Inf. for Diseases of the Eye; to the Marylebone Eye Dispensary; late Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Westminster Hospital School of Medicine, &c.*

LONDON, May 15th, 1852.

I am well acquainted with Dr. Alexander Wood by his published writings, and not unacquainted with him as an able and industrious teacher and practitioner.

As an author, Dr. Wood has exhibited the pen of a ready writer in defending, by clear, straightforward, and logical argument, the grounds on which the doctrines and practice of legitimate or rational medicine rest, and claim the confidence of the profession and the public.

With no less ability, and with a severity which becomes the subject, but is totally free from all that is unsuitable either in language or temper, Dr. Wood has boldly and effectually assailed the strongholds of the various false theories and systems which of late years have endeavoured to supplant and displace the truth in medicine.

Dr. Wood has thus rendered good service to his profession, and has established strong claims on its support in his candidature for the vacant Professorship of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

H. BURFORD NORMAN.

## PART III.

COLLEAGUES OF DR. WOOD IN THE EDINBURGH  
EXTRA-ACADEMICAL SCHOOL.

## XXII.

*From* ANDREW DOUGLAS MACLAGAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.; *Lecturer on Materia Medica Extra-Academical School, Edinburgh; Surgeon to Royal Infirmary; Medical Officer to New Town Dispensary; Author of various papers on Medical Science.*

EDINBURGH, 17th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—In compliance with the request conveyed by your letter of the 13th inst., I most willingly bear testimony to the excellence of your several talents and professional acquirements, and to your fitness for occupying the Chair of Practice of Physic in Glasgow.

As a student you enjoyed the best opportunities of instruction, and you fully availed yourself of them; as a Practitioner, you have had ample means of putting the doctrines of the schools to the test of experience; as a Lecturer for many years on this branch of medicine, you have most efficiently discharged the duty of communicating theoretical and practical instruction to students of medicine, and you have acquired the esteem and respect both of your pupils and of your colleagues.

These qualifications appear to me to be the grounds on which you are well entitled to stand as a candidate for the vacant Professorship; and should you be the successful applicant, I shall rejoice in it, not merely for your own sake, but for the credit of our Extra-Academical School, which has already, in numerous instances, furnished worthy occupants to Medical Chairs in the Glasgow and other British Universities.—I am, my dear Dr. Wood, yours very sincerely,

DOUGLAS MACLAGAN, M.D.



## XXIII.

*From* RICHARD JAMES MACKENZIE, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., *Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary; Medical Officer to the New Town Dispensary; Lecturer on Surgery in the Extra-Academical School of Edinburgh; Author of various Contributions to Medical Journals, &c.*

31 ABERCROMBY PLACE,  
14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—My having borne testimony to the fitness of another friend and fellow-lecturer to fill the Chair for which you are at present a Candidate, forms, in my opinion, no objection to my performing the same duty for you, which I willingly do, according to your request.

My acquaintance with you has extended over a period of fifteen years or upwards; and as a fellow-student, as a private friend, and, during the last fifteen years, as a fellow-lecturer, I have had the pleasure and advantage of being on terms of intimacy with you.

It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that you hold a very high place in the estimation of your professional brethren, as I know that ample testimony will be borne to your high professional abilities by those whose opinion is of much greater value and weight than mine.

Your intimate acquaintance with the Practice of Medicine, and your established reputation as a Lecturer on that subject, are well known to every one who knows anything of the teaching of medicine in Edinburgh. You possess advantages with which few are equally gifted, and which render you peculiarly well fitted for the duties of a public teacher,—viz., an ease and clearness of expression in conveying information to others which I have never seen surpassed. This I have myself had ample opportunities of observing; but I have many times with pleasure heard it expressed by those whose appreciation of your qualities as a lecturer is of more importance,—viz., the

pupils of our school, who have invariably regarded you as an instructive and much respected teacher.

Should you be successful in obtaining the appointment of Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, I know that your duties in that capacity will be most zealously and efficiently performed; while, at the same time, your loss as a lecturer and as a professional brother will be severely felt by your numerous friends in Edinburgh.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

RICHARD JAS. MACKENZIE,  
M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

#### XXIV.

*From* ALEXANDER D. CAMPBELL, B.A. and A.M., Oxon; F.R.C.S. Ed.; *Physician-Accoucheur of Royal Dispensary; Lecturer on Midwifery, Extra-Academical School of Medicine; Member of the Obstetrical Society of Berlin; Author of "A System of Midwifery," &c.*

4 PICARDY PLACE, EDINBURGH,  
May 17th, 1852.

I have had the pleasure of Dr. Alexander Wood's acquaintance for many years; and having for the greater portion of that period been his colleague in the Medical School of Edinburgh, I have had ample opportunity of learning and appreciating his qualifications for a Professorship of Practice of Physic. As a lecturer, few are his equals in fluency and perspicuity of style; his practical knowledge of his profession is thorough, complete, and extensive; and the fact of his having been a lecturer of Practice of Physic for upwards of ten years, and possessing an extensive Museum illustrative of the subject, all combine to render him eminently suitable for any Chair of Practical Medicine.

A. D. CAMPBELL,  
*Lecturer on Midwifery.*



## XXV.

*From ALEXANDER KEILLER, M.D., F.R.C.P., one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary ; Ordinary Physician to the Royal Maternity Hospital ; Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Extra-Academical Medical School ; Author of various Contributions to the London and Edinburgh Medical and other Journals, &c.*

To give an opinion respecting the peculiar qualifications of Dr. Alexander Wood for the Professorship now vacant in the University of Glasgow, is to me a very great pleasure,—seeing that, from the ample opportunities I have enjoyed of becoming acquainted with his character, not only as a Lecturer on the important duties of the vacant Chair, but also as a practical Physician, I can do so with the utmost satisfaction and confidence.

As to Dr. Wood's eminent literary acquirements and great powers, as well as admirable fluency of speech, I do not require to testify, as these qualifications, well known to be possessed by him in an admirable degree, will, doubtless, be more than abundantly established by others. I would desire, however, simply to express my well-founded conviction, that so far as these qualifications—so important to a public lecturer—are concerned, his equal will not readily be found.

It is consistent with my knowledge as a fellow-lecturer, that Dr. Wood has, for many years past, successfully laboured in sustaining and advancing the character of the Medical School of Edinburgh ; and from what I know of his energy and talents as a teacher, and of his experience as an accomplished physician, I cannot for a moment doubt that he would add life and lustre to any University or Medical School with which he may be induced to become connected.

The character and value of Dr. Wood's Pathological Museum, and other extensive material for teaching, now belonging to him, in the School at Surgeon's Hall, are well known in this city ; and I can vouch for the able and liberal manner in which

he has always rendered them available to the students, by whom Dr. Wood has ever been much esteemed.

I will only add, that I consider Dr. Alexander Wood pre-eminently qualified to fill the Chair of Practice of Medicine now vacant in Glasgow; and feel assured, that if he be elected, a very great acquisition to the medical staff of the western capital will be thereby obtained.

ALEXANDER KEILLER, M.D.

## XXVI.

*From JOHN STRUTHERS, M.D., F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Anatomy, Edinburgh; Member of Medico-Chirurgical Society; Author of various contributions on Anatomy and Physiology in Edinburgh Monthly Journal.*

MEDICAL SCHOOL, SURGEONS' HALL,  
May 21st, 1852.

I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to Dr. Alexander Wood's eminent fitness for the Chair of Practice of Medicine now vacant in the University of Glasgow.

I have known him as a Lecturer in that department for eleven years, and as a colleague during six of these, and have therefore enjoyed most ample opportunities of judging of his qualifications, and of hearing the opinions entertained of him by others, and by his pupils.

I consider Dr. Wood's claims for this appointment to be very strong on several grounds:—1st, As a *Lecturer*. In this respect, I have never heard a more able and fluent speaker; but what is of much more importance in a Lecturer or Professor, he possesses to a great degree,—viz., the ability to form a correct judgment of what should be taught to a class of learners, and to present this to them in a clear and impressive manner, so that he becomes emphatically a teacher as well as a Lecturer. 2dly, As an experienced Physician, as well as



teacher. I believe that his great experience in both of these respects, now eminently qualifies him for occupying such a Chair with credit to the University, and would deservedly command for him the confidence of his professional brethren as a consulting physician. *3dly*, As having all along devoted his scientific attention specially to the department of the now vacant Chair. And, *4thly*, As a man possessed of great natural abilities, and excellent professional character. By these he has raised himself to his present position as a Lecturer and a busy Physician; and his name is widely known as an able defender of the honour and purity of the medical profession.

However much I should regret his departure from Edinburgh, and the consequent serious loss to his school of an able and agreeable colleague, I heartily wish him success in his present application, and most sincerely believe, that if appointed to this Chair, Dr. Wood will be a distinguished ornament to the University, and a valuable acquisition to the profession and to the city.

JOHN STRUTHERS.

## PART IV.

### DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL AUTHORS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRECEDING OR SUBSEQUENT PARTS.

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#### XXVII.

*From* JAMES COPLAND, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.,  
*Consulting Physician, and formerly Senior Physician to Royal  
Infirmary for Children ; late Consulting Physician to Queen  
Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, &c. ; Lecturer on Practice of  
Medicine, and Fellow of several British and Foreign Academies  
and Societies ; Author of the " Dictionary of Practical Medi-  
cine," and of several other treatises and works ; Editor of  
" London Medical Repository."*

5 OLD BURLINGTON STREET, LONDON,  
19th May, 1852.

I have great pleasure in stating that I am well acquainted with the professional writings of Dr. Alexander Wood, and with his well-earned and great reputation as a physician and lecturer on the Practice of Medicine ; and I fully believe, that his abilities, his high scientific attainments, and his practical acquirements, very remarkably combine to fit him to fill the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, and to promote the reputation and welfare of that institution.

JAMES COPLAND.

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#### XXVIII.

*From* CHARLES LOCOCK, M.D., F.R.C.P., *First Physician-Accoucheur  
to Her Majesty the Queen ; one of the Senate of the University of*

*London ; Contributor of various Papers to the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, and Dictionary of Practical Medicine.*

HERTFORD STREET, LONDON,  
15th May 1852.

I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Alexander Wood ; but from my knowledge of his published writings, and of his general professional character, I should consider him highly fitted for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in any university ; and I beg leave to recommend him for the appointment he now seeks in that of Glasgow.

C. LOCOCK, M.D.

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XXIX.

*From J. STEVENSON BUSHNAN, M.D., Fellow of the College of Physicians Edinburgh ; Physician to the Metropolis Free Hospital, &c. Author of the "Philosophy of Instinct," and numerous other works.*

MEDICAL TIMES OFFICE,  
46 PRINCES STREET, SOHO, LONDON,  
15th May 1852.

By unmasking homœopathy, Dr. A. Wood did good service to science, and materially protected the interests of true and legitimate medicine. Had he done no more than this, he could still have merited the grateful thanks of the profession, and proved his title to share the rewards that are bestowed for distinguished services upon its members. But Dr. A. Wood is well known to be a highly educated and accomplished Physician, to be deeply skilled in pathology and therapeutics, and to enjoy the rare qualification of being able to communicate with facility to others the best stores of knowledge he himself possesses. For many years Dr. A. Wood has lectured in the Edinburgh School, upon the Practice of Medicine, with marked success, and won for himself the praise and commendation of those best qualified to judge.



From the debt of gratitude therefore due to Dr. A. Wood—from his high standing in the profession—his extended acquaintance with medicine and medical science—his great experience as a lecturer—his facility in teaching—his literary ability—his estimable private character—and my personal knowledge of him—I recommend him to the Patrons of the University of Glasgow as a most eligible Candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine, now vacant by the death of Professor William Thomson.

J. STEVENSON BUSHNAN, M.D.

### XXX.

*From* ALEXANDER TWEEDIE, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.; *Physician to the Fever Hospital, and to the Foundling Hospital; Author of Clinical Illustrations of Fever; one of the Editors of the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine; and Contributor of Several Papers to that work; Editor of the Library of Medicine, &c.*

46 LOWER BROOK STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE,  
LONDON, 17th May 1852.

Although I have not the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Dr. Alexander Wood of Edinburgh, I have no hesitation in expressing my belief, that from his general reputation as a Physician and Teacher of the Principles and Practice of medicine, he is eminently qualified to discharge the duties of Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

A. TWEEDIE, M.D., F.R.S.

### XXXI.

*From* G. JAMES GUTHRIE, ESQ., *Member of the Court of Examiners, and one of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons*

*of England ; Fellow of the Royal Society, &c. ; Author of " A Treatise on Gun-shot Wounds," " Lectures on the Operative Surgery of the Eye," " Anatomy and Surgery of Inguinal and Femoral Hernia," &c.*

4 BERKELEY STREET, May 17th, 1852.

Dr. Alexander Wood has been known to me personally and by his writings for many years ; and I should have great satisfaction in seeing him appointed to the vacant office of Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, from the conviction I entertain that he would perform the duties in a manner which would be essentially advantageous to the interests and character of the University.

G. J. GUTHRIE.

## XXXII.

*From G. OWEN REES, M.D., Lecturer on Materia Medica, Guy's Hospital ; late Physician of Pentonville Prison ; Author of " The Analysis of the Blood and Urine," " On the Treatment of Urinary Diseases," &c.*

10 CORK STREET,

BURLINGTON GARDENS, 15th May, 1852.

I have the pleasure of knowing Dr. Alexander Wood by his books, and feel great satisfaction in having this opportunity of stating that I have the highest opinion of him as a philosophical Physician.

G. OWEN REES, M.D.

## XXXIII.

*From S. SCOTT ALISON, M.D., M.R.C.P., Author of various works, and papers in the Medical Journals.*

LONDON, PARK STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE,  
May 15th, 1852.

As it is always pleasing to testify to the merits of merito-

rious members of the profession, it affords me much pleasure to express my undoubted opinions of the fitness of Dr. Alexander Wood to occupy the vacant Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. Ever since I joined the profession, Dr. Wood has by reputation been most favourably known to me as a scientific physician, and a very rising member of our body. I have carefully perused his writings, and they have convinced me that Dr. Wood possesses in a remarkable degree the faculty to interest, to mould, and to elevate the young medical mind. He is personally unknown to me; my testimony rests entirely on his reputation, and my knowledge of him as an author. In selecting Dr. Wood, the patrons will at once consult the interests of the University, and though a minor matter, do honour where honour is deserved.

S. SCOTT ALISON, M.D.,  
*Member Royal College Physicians.*

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#### XXXIV.

*From* JAMES ORMISTON M'WILLIAM, M.D., F.R.S., *Medical Officer to the Honourable Board of Customs; Author of "Medical History of Niger Expedition;" "Report on the Boa-Vista Fever;" "On the Contagion of Cholera," &c.*

LONDON, 14 TRINITY SQUARE, TOWER HILL,  
 15th May 1852.

I have great satisfaction in bearing my humble testimony to the great claims of Dr. Alexander Wood to occupy the vacant Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Wood's high attainments as a Physician, and in scholarship—his acknowledged success as a teacher, for many years, of Practical Medicine—and his gentlemanly deportment and feeling, point him out as eminently qualified to fill the vacant Chair with great credit to himself, and advantage to the University.

J. O. M'WILLIAM, M.D.,  
 F.R.S.R.N.,  
*Medical Inspector to the Customs.*



XXXV.

*From* GEORGE MACILWAIN, *Honorary Fellow Royal College of Surgeons; late Vice-President Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society; Author of "Medicine and Surgery one Inductive Science," &c.*

LONDON, THE COURT-YARD, ALBANY, PICCADILLY,  
May 17th, 1852.

DEAR SIR,— . . . . .

I have great pleasure in saying, that, so far as I may presume to form an opinion on the impression which I have derived from a perusal of your writings, and other sources, I cannot but regard you as eminently qualified for the Professorship you seek. A book of yours gave me great pleasure, because it appears to me to evince a grasp at those more enlarged views, and that more accurate reasoning, on which we must mainly rest our hopes for any material improvement in medical science. . . . .

I am happy, therefore, to find that you are a Candidate for a position affording so favourable an arena for the development of talent; and I cordially wish that you may be successful in your endeavours to obtain it. . . . .

—Dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

GEO. MACILWAIN.

XXXVI.

*From* AWLY P. BANON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.I., *Lecturer on Midwifery, Dublin Lying-in Hospital; Surgeon to Jervis Street Hospital; Medical Attendant to Richmond Government Prison, and Prisons of Dublin; formerly Anatomical Demonstrator, Richmond School of Medicine; Member of the Surgical and Pathological Societies of Dublin; Contributor to Medical Journals, &c.*

DUBLIN, May 15th, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to state on paper

the very high estimate which I have formed of your character and talents.

Those of your writings which I have seen afford ample proofs of the high degree of medical knowledge to which you have attained. There is also in them evidence of remarkable reasoning powers, which should render you peculiarly fitted for the lecture-room. Your name as a Lecturer in the Edinburgh College of Surgeons is, I assure you, well known in Dublin. I feel, therefore, confident, that in a city so near the scene of your labours as Glasgow is, your merits must be well known, and that they will secure for you the Chair of Medicine now vacant in its University,—I am, my dear Sir, with sincere wishes for your success, yours very truly,

A. BANON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.I.

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### XXXVII.

*From ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to the General Infirmary, Northampton; for Thirty Years an Hospital Physician; Contributor of several of the Articles in the "Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine."\**

Having known Dr. Alexander Wood for five years, and having consulted with him both personally and by letter on several important cases, I have had ample opportunities of forming a correct opinion of his abilities and attainments.

From his superior talents—his extensive and accurate medical erudition—and also from his long experience as a Lecturer on Medicine, I am confident he will, if appointed to the Chair of the Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow, dis-

\* Of this gentleman the *British and Foreign Review* observes, in a review of Mackness' *Moral Aspects of Medical Life*, vol. xxiii., p. 471 :—"This volume is affectionately dedicated, by the author, to his friend, Dr. Archibald Robertson of Northampton, in terms of the justest eulogy, as all who know him will avouch,—a physician 'who, in his intercourse with his brethren and the public, has, during a long professional career, honourably exemplified the principles maintained in the following pages.'"

charge the duties of the Chair with honour to himself, and with credit to that distinguished School of Medicine.

Given under my hand this 17th of May 1852,

ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON,  
M.D., F.R.S.L. & E.

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### XXXVIII.

*From JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS, M.D., Consulting Physician, and formerly Senior Physician to Bristol Gen. Hospital; Author of various Articles in "Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine," the "Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology," and the "Library of Practical Medicine."*

CLIFTON HILL HOUSE,  
15th May 1852.

I am truly glad to hear that Dr. Alexander Wood has become a Candidate for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of Glasgow; for besides being a thoroughly accomplished physician, both theoretically and practically, and possessing intellectual powers of a very high order, together with the faculty of imparting knowledge with clearness and eloquence, his many admirable contributions to medical literature prove the philosophical and logical character of his mind,—a character eminently fitting him to be a teacher of medicine; for while it renders him eager to observe and pursue the latest improvements in our science and art, it forbids his adopting them till they have borne the test of the most rigid examination. Having received the most important part of my medical education in Scotland, I feel deeply interested in the welfare and the reputation of her institutions, and I rejoice to hear of appointments calculated to increase the efficiency and add to the renown of her Universities. Such would, I think, be the sure result of the accession of Dr. Wood to the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

J. A. SYMONDS.



## XXXIX.

*From CHARLES COWAN, M.D., Edinburgh and Paris; Senior Physician to Royal Berkshire Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Reading Dispensary; Honorary Member of the Societie Medical d'Observation de Paris; Bachelier ès Lettres of the Sorbonne; Author of various Medical Works.*

READING, 15th May, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—One leading qualification for public teaching is soundness of mind, a vigorous perception of the features of truth in contradistinction with those of error, and a moral courage to put forth, and a mental capacity to express your sentiments. In our noble profession such gifts are peculiarly needful, especially to those who are charged with the responsible duty of moulding the practice and opinions of its younger members; and in stating my conviction that you are fitted for the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, I do so, not merely on the ground of your possessing sufficient professional attainment, but chiefly because you are alive to the monstrous falsities of opinion and fact so prevalent amongst us, and possess both the ability and the courage requisite for their detection and denouncement.

I should value a Professor far more for the healthiness, than for the science of his prelections. It is much easier to impart knowledge than to instil right principles. Did I not think you would accomplish the latter, I would not write one word in your behalf.—Very faithfully yours,

C. COWAN.

## XL.

*From WILLIAM HENRY MADDEN, M.D., Physician to the Torquay Infirmary and Dispensary; Author of Prize Essay on Cutaneous Absorption; Thoughts on Pulmonary Consumption; Translator of "Cruveilhier's Anatomie Descriptive," &c.*

TORQUAY, 15th May 1852.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Alexander Wood for many years, and have formed a high opinion of his talents and acquirements. He has been engaged for a considerable period in lecturing on the Practice of Medicine in Edinburgh; and I feel assured, that if appointed to the vacant Chair in the University of Glasgow, he will fill it with advantage to the students, and credit to the University.

W. H. MADDEN, M.D.

PART V.

FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN EDINBURGH.

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XLI.

*From* JAMES SCARTH COMBE, M.D., F.R.S.E., *President of  
the Royal College of Surgeons.*

36 YORK PLACE, EDINBURGH,  
14th May 1852.

It affords me much pleasure to offer my humble testimony to the fitness of Dr. A. Wood to occupy the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Wood is largely endowed with all the requisites for ably discharging the duties of that important office. He is thoroughly acquainted alike with the literature and practice of his profession,—has proved himself an able and popular teacher,—enjoys a large share of public confidence as a physician, and has unusual facility and power in expressing himself to an audience composed either of students or of his professional brethren.

I am satisfied that he would ably and zealously discharge the duties of the Chair; and not only maintain, but extend the reputation of the School of Medicine in Glasgow.

J. S. COMBE, M.D.,  
*President of the Royal College of Surgeons,  
Edinburgh.*



## XLII.

*From JAMES BEGBIE, M.D., President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, Fellow and Member of the Council of the Royal College of Physicians, Author of various Contributions to the Medical Journals.*

EDINBURGH, 3 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,  
14th May 1852.

MY DEAR DR. WOOD,—I have already given a Testimonial in favour of one Candidate for the Glasgow Chair of Medicine, and am called upon by another for a similar certificate of fitness; but this ought not, I think, to prevent me expressing the high opinion which I entertain of your qualifications for the office. You are peculiarly well fitted for the Chair by age, experience in practice, and by long and successful teaching of the particular branch of medicine. You have all the qualifications of a public lecturer, in complete knowledge of your subject, in a fluent and eloquent mode of address, and in a remarkable facility of imparting to others the information which you yourself possess.

I need not speak of the many traits in your character which are valued by your friends, and which, in the event of your success, will cause no little regret for the loss we shall sustain by your translation.—I am, dear Dr. Wood, yours very faithfully,  
J. BEGBIE.

## XLIII.

*From ROBERT RENTON, M.D., Fellow, and formerly President, of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Vice-President of the Obstetrical Society, Author of various Contributions to the Medical Journals.*

EDINBURGH, 14th May 1852.

Understanding that Dr. Alexander Wood is a Candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the Glasgow University,

become vacant by the lamented death of my friend, Professor William Thomson, I have great pleasure in stating my opinion as to the peculiar fitness of Dr. Wood for that appointment.

Dr. Wood has for some years been a successful teacher in that branch of medicine in the Edinburgh School; and to his experience as a Lecturer, he unites the practical knowledge of a Physician, having been long engaged in the arduous duties of his profession,—in private practice, as well as in connexion with public institutions.

As Secretary to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Dr. Wood's services have been highly appreciated by that body, as a ready and efficient man of business; and were he successful in his present application, these useful qualifications would, I am certain, greatly enhance his value as a colleague in the Glasgow University. I wish him all the success which his merits deserve.

R. RENTON, M.D.

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#### XLIV.

*From DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.P.E.,  
formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Physi-  
cian to Her Majesty's Forces; Surgeon to the Queen in Scot-  
land; Consulting Surgeon to the New Town Dispensary, &c.*

EDINBURGH, May 15th, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter in reference to the vacancy which has occurred in the Professorship of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, by the death of my lamented friend Dr. William Thomson. I am much interested in the success of another candidate, Dr. William Gairdner, whom I have known very intimately from his early days, and whom I consider to be highly qualified to fulfil the duties of the Chair. But I do not on that account

feel myself to be precluded from expressing the favourable opinion I entertain of your professional knowledge, and of the power you possess successfully to communicate that knowledge to others. Nor can I hesitate to recognize the zeal and ability you manifest in the advancement of medical science, which, along with your excellent business talents, will, I trust, long continue to be exercised for its advantage.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D.

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XLV.

*From ADAM HUNTER, M.D., F.R.C.S., formerly President of  
the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.*

18 ABERCROMBY PLACE, 14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I willingly accede to your request of bearing my humble testimony in your favour as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of the Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow.

Many years have elapsed since I first had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with you, during which period I have had ample opportunities of forming an accurate opinion of your qualifications for the honourable appointment which, at the present moment, is the object of your ambition; and my opinion is, that you, by original abilities—by your zeal and industry—by your high professional attainments—and by your eminent success as a Lecturer in the Extra-Academic Medical School of Edinburgh, on the very subject which is taught from the Chair for which you are a Candidate,—possess every qualification requisite to render you a successful teacher of the Practice of Physic.—Believe me, ever yours most truly,

ADAM HUNTER, M.D.



## XLVI.

*From WILLIAM BROWN, M.D., late President of the College of Surgeons; President of the Medical Missionary Society; Surgeon to the Orphan's Hospital; Author of various contributions to the Medical Journal, &c.*

EDINBURGH, 15th May, 1852.

I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion that Dr. Alexander Wood is highly qualified to fill the office of Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. The zeal and ability which he has manifested, during a series of years, in teaching that science in the Medical School of Edinburgh, entitle him to aspire to the professorial chair, and give an assurance, that if appointed to that important office, he would fulfil its duties to the entire satisfaction of those concerned.

WILLIAM BROWN, F.R.S.E.,  
*Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

## XLVII.

*From SAMUEL ALEXANDER PAGAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E., Late President of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; Consulting Medical Officer, New Town Dispensary; Ordinary Manager of the Royal Infirmary and Royal Lunatic Asylum, Edinburgh, &c. &c.*

40 MELVILLE STREET, EDINBURGH,  
15th May 1852.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Alexander Wood from the period of his entering on his professional career, and can safely aver, that in natural capacity and energy of character, I know few men who surpass him.

It is, perhaps, needless to say, that these qualities have been cultivated to the highest degree,—in the first place, by a systematic education; and in maturer age, by a zealous pursuit of Medicine as a science.

He has not only studied and practised his profession most assiduously, but has written much, and *taught* with great talent and acceptability.

I consider him eminently qualified to fill the Chair of Practice of Medicine in Glasgow, or any other University.

S. A. PAGAN, M.D.,  
*F.R.S. of Ed. ; F.R.C. of Surgeons.*

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XLVIII.

*From* JOHN CAMPBELL, M.D., *Fellow, and formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh ; late Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.*

EDINBURGH, 2 QUEEN ST., 14th May, 1852.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the fitness of Dr. Alexander Wood for discharging the duties of the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, vacant by the death of Dr. William Thomson, as I feel assured that the University, and those connected with it, would derive great advantage from the appointment of one of Dr. Wood's well-known talents and acquirements, to fill that office.

Dr. Wood has been known to me for many years past as a gentleman who has established for himself a very high reputation in the Profession as a writer and as a Lecturer on the Practice of Physic ; and I am satisfied, that were he appointed to the Chair, his great talents, industry, and attainments, would ensure the Lectures being conducted in such a manner as to prove advantageous to the Pupils, and to add to the reputation of the University as a School of Medicine.

JOHN CAMPBELL, M.D.

## XLIX.

*From JAMES SIMSON, M.D., Fellow, and formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Extraordinary Member of the Royal Medical Society; Surgeon to the Prison Board; formerly Surgeon in the Edinburgh Lock Hospital, and New Town Dispensary, &c.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in stating that I consider you extremely well qualified for the Chair of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow. My opinion is formed from the extensive information you possess upon every branch of your profession, the energy of your character, your facility and lucidness in expressing your ideas, and the fact of your having been a most successful and popular teacher of medicine for a number of years past in the Medical School here. I do think you would be a great acquisition to the University of Glasgow.—Very truly yours,

JAMES SIMSON, M.D.

## L.

*From ANDREW WOOD, M.D., F.R.C.S., Ed.; H. M. Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland, Surgeon to the Merchant Maidens' Hospital, &c.*

9 DARNAWAY STREET, EDINBURGH,  
14th May 1852.

I have much pleasure in bearing my humble, but decided testimony, in favour of Dr. Alexander Wood, as a peculiarly fit person to occupy the Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, for which I understand he is at present a Candidate.

He is of standing in the profession,—having been for many years engaged in practice; he is known to be a sound and judicious practitioner; he has written some very able papers on



medical subjects, and, in a work of great talent, has vindicated Rational Medicine from the assaults of those who have sought to undermine its time-honoured foundations; he has a remarkable power of elegantly and fluently stating his opinions, and, for a number of years, has delivered highly acceptable courses of Lectures on the Practice of Medicine.

Such being his qualifications, I need hardly add, that in my opinion the interests of medical science, and the reputation of the University of Glasgow, would be both alike served by his election to the office to which he now aspires.

ANDREW WOOD, M.D.,  
F.R.C.S.E.

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LI.

*From* PETER FAIRBAIRN, M.D., *Surgeon to the House of Refuge; Fellow and formerly Councillor of College of Physicians; Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, and Obstetrical Society, &c.*

EDINBURGH, 15th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received yours of yesterday's date, and have great pleasure in complying with your request, that I should express my opinion of your qualifications as a Teacher of the Practice of Medicine.

From my own observations for many years, and reading your introductory discourses delivered in the Extra-Academical School of this place, I consider your talents of a high order.

Your career as a Lecturer has been marked with great success, and is alone sufficient to give you great claims for the distinction of the Professorship of that department of Medicine to which you aspire; more especially as that success is to be ascribed entirely to your own ability and excellence as a teacher; having rapidly obtained a most distinguished place as

such in the estimation of your professional brethren, and of the Students of the Edinburgh School. In making this attestation of your qualifications, I am merely performing an act of justice and duty to a most deserving person. You have, therefore, my best wishes for your success.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

P FAIRBAIRN, M.D.

## LII.

*From CHARLES ANDERSON, M.D., Member of the Wernerian Natural History Society, Edinburgh; Author of “Translation of Werner’s Theory of Veins,” “Von Buck’s Mineralogical Description of the Environs of Landeck.”*

LEITH, 14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in offering my testimony as to your qualification of filling the Chair of Practice of Physic in Glasgow, vacant by the death of Dr. William Thomson, knowing that you had been fully educated for such; also, that you have successfully taught the same branch of medical education in Edinburgh for some years, your eloquence as a Lecturer being very distinguished.—I am, my dear Sir, yours sincerely,

CHARLES ANDERSON, M.D.

## LIII.

*From ALEXANDER MACAULAY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Physician-Accoucheur to the New Town Dispensary, Treasurer of the Royal College of Surgeons, Author of a “Medical Dictionary,” &c.*

48 GREAT KING STREET, EDINBURGH,  
14th May 1852.

Dr. Alexander Wood has for many years been a diligent, instructive, and able Lecturer on the Practice of Physic; and

his lectures derive their value, not merely from extensive reading, but from actual experience in the exercise of his profession. I consider him to be eminently qualified for the office to which he aspires, for many reasons, and not the least, for the manly good sense which characterizes his published treatises; and the pleasing style of his lectures, to which I can bear testimony from my own experience, when I have had the pleasure of hearing him.

His moral character and personal conduct are worthy of the honourable profession to which he belongs.

ALEX. MACAULAY, M.D.

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LIV.

*From* ARCHIBALD WILSON DICKSON, Esq., F.R.C.S., *formerly*  
*Medical Officer of North-Western Dispensary.*

13 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,  
14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received your note, informing me that you are a Candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, now vacant by the lamented death of Dr. William Thomson. We have been acquainted now for many years, and I can conscientiously state, that amongst all my medical friends here, I know of no one whom I consider more eminently qualified to fill that most responsible situation than yourself.

You have, for many years, been known as a most successful Lecturer on Medicine in this city; and as a fluent speaker, you are almost unequalled amongst your professional brethren here. Your talents are of the first order, and you have lost no opportunity of making the best use of them. I can only add, that I shall consider not only the University, but the City of Glasgow, most fortunate if the appointment falls into your hands.—Wishing you all success, I ever am yours, most truly,

ARCHD. W. DICKSON, *Surgeon.*



## LV.

*From* JOHN TAYLOR, M.D., *Fellow and Treasurer of the Royal College of Physicians.*

2 ABERCROMBIE PLACE, 17th May 1852.

Having been much associated with Dr. Alexander Wood for several years past, and having had many opportunities of forming an opinion concerning him, I have very great pleasure in expressing my conviction that he is admirably qualified to fill the Chair of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow. I consider him a man of first-rate ability, accomplished in his profession, and of sound judgment and enlightened views on scientific subjects. He has also great powers as a public speaker; and from the marked success he has already met with as a teacher and Lecturer, I have no doubt, that if preferred to the honourable office to which he now aspires, he would fill it with the greatest advantage to the University, and distinction to himself.

JOHN TAYLOR, M.D., F.P.C.P.

## LVI.

*From* JOHN G. M'D. BURT, M.D., F.R.C.P., Edinburgh, L.R.C.S., Edinburgh; *Consulting Physician to North British and Britannia Insurance Companies; formerly Surgeon to late King in Scotland; Extra Member of Royal Medical Society; Author of "Illustrations of Surgical Anatomy."*

GEORGE STREET, 20th May, 1852.

MY DEAR WOOD,—I think the best proof of your qualifications for the Chair of Medicine in Glasgow, is to be found in the experience and success you have had as a Teacher of the Theory and Practice here.

I know no one who possesses, in a higher degree than you do, the faculty of communicating clearly and distinctly the

information you desire to impart to others; and if it is your desire to possess the vacant Chair, it will give me great pleasure to learn that the appointment has been conferred upon one so worthy of it.—Ever believe me faithfully yours,

JOHN BURT.

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LVII.

*From JOHN SMITH, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Physician to the Edinburgh Charity Workhouse.*

16 INDIA STREET, 14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—Understanding from your note that you intend to offer yourself as a Candidate for the Chair of the Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow, vacant by the lamented death of Dr. William Thomson, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to your fitness for such an important office. I am aware that your attention has for many years been earnestly directed to this branch of medicine. I believe you to possess, in an eminent degree, qualities which fit you peculiarly for a public teacher. I allude chiefly to your easy and ready manner of arranging and expressing your ideas, as well as to your accurate and comprehensive knowledge of the subject, founded on much practical experience. But the success alone which has hitherto attended your labours in the Medical School here, affords ample proof of your capabilities as a Lecturer on the Practice of Physic.—With my best wishes, believe me, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

JOHN SMITH, M.D.

## LVIII.

*From BENJAMIN BELL, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to Edinburgh Eye Infirmary, and to George Watson's Hospital; and Surgeon to the Asylum for the Blind; Contributor of various Papers to the Medical Journals.*

8 SHANDWICK PLACE, May 14, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—Although I feel that there is some awkwardness in telling a man himself of the estimate which we have formed of his fitness for an office, I shall venture to specify your claims on the vacant professorship. You have not only been fully occupied for many years with the daily practice of our profession in all its details, but have taught the subject as a Lecturer to a large class of students with great acceptance during nearly the entire period, and will thus be enabled to enter upon the duties of the Chair in Glasgow, not as a novice, but as one thoroughly trained by long experience. In addition to this presumptive evidence in your favour, I may refer to your well-known talent and facility in public speaking,—a gift almost invaluable to a Professor, and which you certainly possess in a rare and enviable degree. And being still in the very prime of life, with a vigorous frame, active habits, and great mental energy, you may be reasonably expected to discharge the duties of the Chair for many years to come with growing efficiency and success.—Believe me, my dear Sir,  
yours very truly,  
BENJ. BELL.

## LIX.

*From ROBERT OMOND, M.D., F.R.C.S., one of the Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons; Secretary to the Harveian Medical Society; Treasurer of the Medico-Chirurgical Society.*

EDINBURGH, 43 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,  
15th May 1852.

Dr. Alexander Wood is well known as an accomplished physician, and a successful teacher in the Medical School of Edinburgh.



Having frequently heard him address audiences, I cordially testify that his delivery is pleasing and lively, that his opinions are stated with ease and fluency, and that he possesses pre-eminently the valuable quality of placing distinctly and vividly before his hearers whatever he wishes to inculcate.

If selected for the vacant Chair in Glasgow University, his energy and activity, his extensive professional knowledge, and his admirable method of conveying instruction, afford every reasonable hope that he will discharge his professional duties with very great success. ROBERT OMOND, M.D.

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LX.

*From JAMES STARK, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E., late Physician to the North-Western Dispensary, Hon. Registrar of Mortality of Edinburgh and Leith, Author of "Inquiry into the Sanitary State of Edinburgh," "Reports on the Mortality of Edinburgh and Leith," "Vital Statistics of Scotland," Contributor of numerous papers to Medical Journals.*

EDINBURGH, 21 RUTLAND SQUARE,  
14th May 1852.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received your note, and have much pleasure in acceding to your request.

Your reputation as a sound and popular Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine is too well established in Edinburgh to require to be certified by me. But I may state, that having, on several occasions, had the pleasure of hearing you lecture on various subjects connected with the practice of medicine, I have been much struck with the extent of your reading, the soundness of your judgment, the fluency of your language, the lucid arrangement of fact and argument, and the facility you possessed of engaging and carrying your hearers along with you. Indeed, I have heard few lecturers who possessed so many of these qualities in such perfection as yourself.

But it is not only as a Lecturer that you shine. The numerous papers you have published shew that you are a liberal contributor to our increasing stock of knowledge in medicine; and no one will rejoice more to see you raised to the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, which you are in every respect so well qualified to adorn.—I am, ever faithfully yours,

JAMES STARK, M.D.

### LXI.

*From ALEXANDER PEDDIE, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Physician to Minto House Hospital and Dispensary; Contributor of various papers to Medical Journals.*

11 RUTLAND STREET, 17th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request that I should give an opinion as to your fitness for the Chair of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow, I have now to state, that from what has been reported to me by others of the profession in regard to your Lectures in our School of Medicine; from what I have read of your writings on various medical topics; and from what I know of your practical experience as a physician, I consider you eminently qualified for the situation to which you aspire.—I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

A. PEDDIE, M.D.

### LXII.

*From ALEXANDER JACKSON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.S.A., Physician to the New Town Dispensary, and to the Ear Dispensary, &c.*

20 CLARENCE STREET, 17 May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I can hardly hope that my opinion can have much weight in regard to your professional merits; but

since you have requested me to state it, I comply with much pleasure.

Your having for several years successfully lectured on Practice of Medicine in the Edinburgh School—the works published by you—the numerous papers scattered through the medical journals—your command of language in clearly and elegantly expressing yourself—the bedside knowledge that many years devoted to the practice of our profession have given you, appear to me eminently to qualify you to discharge the duties of Professor of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.—With best wishes for your success, I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

ALEXANDER JACKSON, M.D.

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LXIII.

*From JAMES STRUTHERS, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edinburgh;  
Physician to Leith Hospital and Dispensary; Member of  
Medico-Chirurgical Society.*

22 CHARLOTTE STREET, LEITH,  
15th May 1852.

I have known Dr. Alexander Wood for many years, during which he has been the Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the Extra-Academical School of Medicine in Edinburgh; and have much pleasure in testifying as to the able manner in which he has discharged all the duties of that responsible situation.

Dr. Wood has shewn himself to be most thoroughly acquainted with the practical and scientific departments of his profession. As a Lecturer he is eloquent, perspicuous, and experienced,—arresting the attention of his students by the lucid manner in which he treats his subject, and gaining their attachment and regard by his anxiety to impart sound infor-



mation, and to guard them against error ; and by his uniformly kind and gentlemanly deportment.

In the various publications of which Dr. Wood is the Author, he has established his reputation as a sound, experienced, and talented physician ; and as an uncompromising opponent to every system that is not founded on observation and experience.

To these rare qualifications are added a philosophic mind, a sound judgment, and a talent in original research which would render Dr. Wood an acquisition to any University. Should he be so fortunate as to be appointed to the vacant Chair of Medicine in Glasgow, I have every confidence in saying that he would prove a bright ornament to the University, extend its reputation, and secure the esteem of all with whom he might be brought in contact.

JAMES STRUTHERS, M.D.,  
M.R.C.S.E.

## PART VI.

### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE PROVINCES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PREVIOUS OR SUBSEQUENT PARTS.

#### LXIV.

*From* GEORGE PATERSON, M.D., *Fellow and late Secretary of Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; late Senior Physician and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.*

TIVERTON, 19th May, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—Of your high qualifications to fill the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, now vacant by the lamented death of our friend, Dr. W. Thomson, no one who is acquainted with the Medical School of Edinburgh can entertain a doubt. In that school you have, for several years, been distinguished as a popular and successful Extra-Academical teacher of the branch of Medical study which the vacant Professorship embraces. To the great advantage of being a ready and eloquent speaker, you add the more solid qualifications of a sound erudition, practical experience at the bedside, and just views of the Philosophy of Medicine, as your various contributions to its literature amply testify. Your opposition to false theories, and conduct discreditable to the profession, has been marked and uncompromising. At the same time, your election as Secretary to the Royal College of Physicians, proves you to have enjoyed the confidence of the body of your medical brethren, and has placed you in a position peculiarly favourable to an acquaintance with the bearings of many important questions relating to medical education and practice, in which the body of the Profession are interested.

On these public grounds, and on many of a private nature,

relating to your moral and personal fitness for so important a trust, I heartily wish you success in application for the vacant Chair.—Believe me, yours very truly,

G. PATERSON, M.D.

## LXV.

*From* ALEXANDER MACLAVERTY, M.D. Ed.; *Physician to Ross Dispensary; visiting Physician to Whitchurch Lunatic Asylum; formerly Physician to the Glasgow Parochial Hospital, &c.*

ROSS, HEREFORD, 17th May 1852.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Alexander Wood for many years, and have had every opportunity, both at school and at College, of forming an opinion as to his talents and acquirements. He is possessed of talents of a very high order, which he has carefully cultivated; his habits are studious; and he has proved himself to be a clever and accomplished Author. He is a fluent speaker, and an able debater; and being exceedingly well read in his profession, in him are combined all the requisites to make a popular teacher.

I understand that Dr. A. Wood is at present a candidate for the Chair of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow. Since he has, for many years, lectured on that subject in the Edinburgh Medical School, I consider him peculiarly well qualified to discharge the duties of that important office.

A. MACLAVERTY, M.D.

## LXVI.

*From* JOHN LINDSAY BONNAR, L.R.C.S. Ed.; *Surgeon to the Fife County Prison; Author of Contributions to the Medical Journals.*

CUPAR-FIFE, 17th May, 1852.

From an acquaintance of many years' standing with Dr.



Alexander Wood,—from having consulted with him in many difficult and doubtful cases occurring in my own private practice,—and from the experience I have had of his skill and discrimination in severe domestic affliction, I have been led to form the highest opinion of his professional abilities and attainments; and from the well-known zeal he has exhibited for the honour and advancement of his profession, his success as a teacher of medicine in the Extra-Academical School in Edinburgh, and the general reputation he has earned for himself as an accomplished and scientific physician, I consider him eminently qualified to fill the important office of Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, for which I understand he is now a candidate.

GEORGE LINDSAY BONNAR.

LXVII.

*From WILLIAM M. MACKENZIE, M.D., Physician to the Kelso Dispensary, &c.*

KELSO, 20th May, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—As it is your intention to offer yourself as a Candidate for the Chair in Glasgow, vacant by the death of my late friend, Dr. Wm. Thomson, it gives me great pleasure to express my honest conviction of your perfect competency to discharge the duties of that important office.

No medical man who has met you in consultation, as I have done, could fail to observe your great knowledge of the Practice of Physic—of the principles which should guide the practitioner in elucidating and discriminating the causes of symptoms in obscure and complicated diseases—the unwearying zeal and great talent you have brought to bear on the treatment of such cases.

I have heard from many of your old pupils, of the great facility which you possess for communicating this knowledge in

a pleasant and profitable manner in your prelections, and your felicitous way of attracting the attention of your students even on subjects often dull enough in the hands of other teachers.

As your success as an Author, Teacher, and Practitioner, are not mere local facts, I need not dilate on those points ; but shall only add, that if the Glasgow University avails herself of your services, and attaches you to her corps of Professors, a severe blow will be inflicted on the Edinburgh School of Medicine.—With every good wish, I am, my dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

W. M. MACKENZIE, M.D.

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LXVIII.

*From* HENRY CHARLES RUTHERFORD, M.D., *Kelso.*

TWEEDSIDE HOUSE, KELSO, 16th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I understand you are in the field as a candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, recently become vacant by the demise of Professor William Thomson ;—permit me to say, I heartily wish you success.

I know no member of the medical profession so well calculated as yourself to fill, with credit to the University, this distinguished post, as, in addition to a highly cultivated mind, you possess a thorough knowledge of your profession, and of the successful modes of combating inveterate disease, which, in my own case, I can personally vouch for ; while your undoubted success as a Lecturer in the Practice of Medicine for many years in Edinburgh is well known, and has always been thoroughly appreciated by every one who has had the advantage of attending your course of lectures.

Hoping soon to hear that you have attained the summit of your wishes, I remain, my dear Sir, most truly yours,

H. C. RUTHERFORD, M.D.

## LXIX.

*From* JAMES DUNLOP, Esq., L.R.C.S., *Dunbar.*

DUNBAR, 24th May 1852.

I have known Dr. Wood for some years as a most successful Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Physic, several of my assistants having studied this branch of the profession under him. The knowledge they acquired of the nature and treatment of disease under his tuition, led me to form a very high estimate of Dr. Wood's qualifications as an instructor of youth.

I have had occasion to consult Dr. Wood in disease of obscure character, and found his advice in the management of the sick most valuable. I can testify to Dr. Wood being both a skilful Physician and successful Lecturer, and consider him well qualified to fill, with honour to himself, and advantage to the public, the now vacant Chair of Professor of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow.

JAMES DUNLOP, *Surgeon.*



## PART VII.

FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED  
DR. WOOD'S LECTURES.

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### LXX.

*From P. F. WATT, M.D., formerly Medical Practitioner in Demerara.*

ST. ANDREWS, 15th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—Soon after my return to this country in the Session of 1846-7, I had the pleasure of occasionally attending your course of lectures on the Practice of Medicine; and I was so much struck with the admirable arrangement of your subject, the clearness and precision of your descriptions, the closeness of reasoning by which you so logically deduced the nature of each disease, and the principles upon which a rational treatment should proceed,—with the great amount of practical information condensed in these lectures, and the whole enforced with so much eloquence and ability,—that I certainly consider you eminently qualified to fill the Chair in the University of Glasgow, now vacant by the lamented decease of the late Dr. William Thomson.—I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

P. F. WATT, M.D.

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### LXXI.

*From JAMES MERRY, L.R.C.S.E., and a Medical Practitioner  
in British Guiana for twenty-five years.*

EDINBURGH, May 24th, 1852.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have had the pleasure of occasionally attending Dr. Alex. Wood's Lectures

on the Practice of Medicine; and I have been always much pleased with the admirable arrangement of his subject, and with the clearness and precision of reasoning by which he so logically deduced from the nature of each disease the principles of its treatment, and also with the amount of practical information conveyed in these Lectures. I have therefore no hesitation in giving my decided opinion, that I consider him eminently qualified to fill the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, vacant by the lamented death of the late Dr. William Thomson.

JAMES MERRY, L.R.C.S.E.

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LXXII.

*From DAVID BRODIE, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., Resident Medical Officer in the City Poor House, formerly a Student in Dr. Wood's Class.*

MY DEAR SIR,—With pleasure I forward to you my humble opinion of your fitness for the Chair of Practice of Medicine now vacant in the University of Glasgow. To this department of medical tuition you have been long devoted, in connexion with the Edinburgh School; and it is now several years since I had the satisfaction of listening to your course of prelections. More recently I have had ample opportunities of observing that you have continued to enjoy, in the general estimation of the profession, that distinguished eminence which you had then attained as a public Lecturer. I have a lively recollection of the masterly treatment which the various branches of your subject received at your hands. There was a judicious selection from the vast stores of medical literature of those views and facts which it most concerns the student to know; and these were presented in a style of clear, harmonious, and earnest eloquence, which was admirably fitted to convey much solid instruction, and to surround your theme with such



attractions as should awaken an intelligent interest in your pupils.

By your abilities and attainments you are so thoroughly furnished for discharging the duties of Professor of Medicine, that I am sure your appointment to the vacant Chair will do honour to the patrons of the Glasgow University, and will most materially advance its interests.—With very sincere desires for your success, I am, my dear Sir, with much esteem,

DAVID BRODIE, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

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LXXIII.

*From ALEXANDER BROWN, L.R.C.S., formerly a Pupil of  
Dr. Wood's Class.*

COLDSTREAM, 14th May 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—As an old pupil and friend it affords me great pleasure in having this opportunity of according my humble testimony to your fitness for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I consider you eminently qualified to fill such a Chair—not only from the length of time you have been engaged in lecturing on the subject in Edinburgh, but also from your method of imparting instruction to your pupils—a method peculiarly your own. The feelings with which your pupils have ever regarded you, shew that they profited much, and were highly pleased with your prelections,—your style and delivery being such as to make even any details interesting, and to arrest and keep up the attention of even the most careless. The simplicity and clearness with which you demonstrated the fundamental principles of our profession—the unsparing exertions you used to unravel any of the knotty questions that came before you in the course of the session—and especially the care you took to infuse into our minds a love of our profession, failed not to fire the heart of the young aspirant after medical honours, and taught him to feel that the profession in which he was engaged was worthy the



devotion of a lifetime,—that it was based upon true and sound principles, unalterable as Nature's great laws, and impressed upon him the absolute necessity of not looking upon disease in the abstract, nor of treating it in a routine or empirical manner; but of the necessity there was of going forth to his labour with a firm determination to search in all things for a cause, and to base his treatment upon true and scientific grounds. It would be presumptuous in me to dilate further upon your abilities; they are sufficiently well known already,—from your kindness and gentleness at the bedside, to the strength and force of your public writings, and your debates in the various learned societies in Edinburgh.

In wishing you every success, I feel I not only express my own sentiments, but also those of all who have sat under your teaching; for we all felt the highest respect for your talents as a teacher, and your kindly manner to us endeared you to our hearts. Should you succeed in obtaining the appointment, the students of the University of Glasgow may congratulate themselves upon having obtained a teacher who will spare no pains to impart a thorough knowledge of Medicine to them, and whose long experience in teaching is a guarantee that his mind is well stored with an ample fund of medical knowledge.—Wishing you all success, believe me ever yours truly,

ALEX. BROWN.

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#### LXXIV.

*From C. A. LOCKHART ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., late Assistant Physician to Royal Military Lunatic Asylum, Yarmouth; Contributor of several Papers and original Reports to Dr. Rankine's Yearly Abstract, and to the Monthly Journal of Medical Science.*

CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, May 18th, 1852.

Dr. Wood's merits as a Teacher of the Practice of Physic have been long known to me.

In 1843-4 and 5, I attended his Class in Edinburgh, and have seldom heard a more eloquent and yet practical Teacher. I also acted under him at the Dispensary; indeed I owe all my knowledge of the Practice of Medicine to his instruction.

I consider him *singularly* fitted to fill the post of Professor of the Practice of Medicine; indeed, I have always looked forward to his one day occupying such a position as that for which he is now a candidate.

C. A. LOCKHART ROBERTSON, M.D.

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LXXV.

*From* ROBERT COCKERTON, M.D., *formerly a Student in*  
*Dr. Wood's Class.*

MONTGOMERY, 17th May 1852.

DEAR DOCTOR,—I am glad to find that you are a Candidate for a Chair now vacant in the University of Glasgow, for I am quite certain that a gentleman like yourself, possessing talents so brilliant, and zeal so conspicuous and unmistakeable, cannot fail to add to the celebrity of any body of Professors with whom you may be associated, and likewise add to the fame of any University to which you may belong.

It is now twelve years since I attended your Course of Lectures on Practice of Physic; and I must confess that it is a source of great pleasure and gratification to me that the success with which my practice is attended, is, I am quite certain, derived from the clear and sound knowledge of Pathology and Practice of Physic I acquired under your tuition. In my opinion, it is not enough that a Professor of Medicine should possess talents, learning, and zeal only; but urbanity of manners, a kind and friendly style of communication, which encourages modest, diffident students,—qualities in you which, I often remarked to my fellow-students at the time, endeared



you to your class. The University of Glasgow, I am quite of opinion, will be fortunate in possessing one so eminently fit to occupy a Chair within its walls.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT COCKERTON, M.D.

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LXXVI.

*From J. VACY LYLE, M.R.C.S. Ed., L.S.A., &c.; formerly a Student in Dr. Wood's Class.*

LAUNCESTON, CORNWALL, *May 18th, 1852.*

MY DEAR SIR,—It affords me very much pleasure to have an opportunity of bearing testimony to your admirable qualifications as a Teacher of the Practice of Physic. Having for three years had the advantage of studying under you, it may be presumed that my opportunities of judging of your capabilities as a Teacher, have been ample. I have, every day that I live, to be thankful for the information I gained from you, and, above all, for that precise method of arrangement which your tuition communicated to your pupils, and without which knowledge, however abundant, if chaotic and undigested, is all but valueless.

I am assured that in this well-deserved testimony I am not uttering my own opinion alone, but that, also, of those who were my fellow-students. Further, I know it was their opinion, as it is mine, that you possess the rare and invaluable qualification of being able to communicate information, not only clearly and intelligibly, but eloquently.

It cannot be doubted that the authorities of the University of Glasgow will do well to appoint, as successor of their late Professor of Physic, one who, like yourself, has had so extended an experience in teaching and in practice. For my part, I know no one more worthy to direct the studies of a large class, and



whose lessons will tend not only to communicate dry facts, but to make your pupils acquainted with the practice, as well as with the theory of Medicine.—Believe me, my dear Sir, to remain most truly yours,

J. VACY LYLE.

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LXXVII.

*From WILLIAM GRAY, M.D., District Medical Officer of St. Cuthbert's Parish, &c., formerly a Student in Dr. Wood's Class.*

17 BIRSTO STREET,  
EDINBURGH, 14th May 1852.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 13th inst., I feel much pleasure in having this opportunity of publicly expressing my gratitude for the kindness and attention which I experienced while attending your class, and of bearing my humble testimony as to your fitness for the Chair of Practice of Physic.

With regard to your attainments as a Physician, I shall say nothing, fully confident that most of your professional brethren could testify as to your skill and thorough knowledge of your profession. But as one of your pupils in your first course of lectures, I may venture an opinion.

Your mode of imparting instruction is both simple and easily understood; and you have that happy qualification of giving much information in few words; and, at the same time, you excelled in keeping the attention of the student constantly fixed on the subject of discourse, and that without any apparent effort.

I think it unnecessary to say anything further, than that I consider you fully qualified in *all respects* for the vacant Chair of Practice of Physic (of Glasgow?)—I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

W. GRAY.

## LXXVIII.

*From JAMES LOGAN, M.D., L.R.C.S.; Late Resident House Surgeon and Physician Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; President of the Hunterian Medical Society; Author of a Pamphlet on Cholera; formerly a Student in Dr. Wood's Class.*

KETTERING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, *May 15th 1852.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I am glad to hear you are a candidate for the vacant Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. As an old pupil, I ever feel grateful for the knowledge I received from your admirable lectures; and as a proof of the high estimation I hold you in as a teacher, after graduation I again became a pupil, and invariably recommend to your class any of my friends proceeding to the Edinburgh Medical Schools. Your well-known professional attainments and ability as a Lecturer cannot be too highly appreciated, and point you out as pre-eminently fitted for the Chair for which you are a candidate.

Should the University of Glasgow be so fortunate as to obtain you amongst its Professors, its reputation as a Medical School will be in no small degree increased.—Wishing you every success, I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly,

JAMES LOGAN, M.D.

## LXXIX.

*From the STUDENTS who attended Dr. Wood's Lectures during the Session 1851-2.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,  
EDINBURGH, *15th May 1852.*

DR. ALEXANDER WOOD, F.R.C.P.E.,

MOST RESPECTED SIR,—Your pupils during the past session (1851-2) having heard that you are standing as a Candidate

for a Professorship in the University of Glasgow, held a meeting this day, for the purpose of drawing up the enclosed memorial (in the form of a letter) of their respect and esteem for you as a teacher of the noblest branch of the profession,—Practice of Physic.

They have to regret that the power they possess of doing justice to your high attainments and gentlemanly demeanour is so limited, as also the time allowed them for so doing.—I have the honour to remain, most respected Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM MARSHALL, *Preses.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,  
EDINBURGH, 15th May, 1852.

TO DR. ALEXANDER WOOD, F.R.C.P.E.

MOST RESPECTED SIR,—In the first place, in regard to the subject of your lectures, we cannot but admire your masterly arrangement of it. We are very well aware of the great difficulty you must have had in condensing so vast an amount of subject matter into a six month's course;—particularly are we of this opinion when we consider that there is no separate lectureship for pathology, as there is in some Colleges.

Any teacher giving due satisfaction to his students in elucidating two such extensive branches of Medical Science, (Pathology and Practice of Physic,) is, in our humble opinion, justly entitled to no small amount of merit. We are glad to confess, and but too happy to have it in our power to express our unanimous conviction, that such is the relation in which you stand to us.

In your descriptions of disease we have always admired the keenness of spirit which you exhibited it, the simplicity of



your language, and the characteristic perspicuity of your ideas on all subjects connected with the science you so nobly adorn. On all occasions we have experienced in ourselves, and witnessed in others, the power which you possess of rivetting the attention of the student on the subject, even when dry and seemingly uninteresting ; this may partly be ascribed to the deep interest you evidently take in it yourself, and your determination that you should be understood. But what has most served to fix our attention, and has raised you so high in our estimation, is the complete mastery you possess over your subject,—not on all occasions being tied down to your paper, but, when opportunity afforded, launching forth into extemporaneous bursts of eloquence, raising your audience to your own pitch of enthusiasm, and carrying along with you irresistibly even those who would be most inclined to lag behind.

Your illustrations of the various subjects, by means of diagrams, tables, and wet and dry preparations, were all that could be desired ; in particular, we shall never forget your graphic illustrations of cases (*à propos*) occurring in your own extensive practice, and your kindly taking one or more of your class to your *post mortem* examinations.

Among other and numerous qualifications as a Medical Lecturer, we may briefly enumerate a patience and perseverance which is inexhaustible ; a steady determination of doing your duty which is indefatigable ; and a regularity in all your actions which is worthy the imitation of all. To these qualifications may be added great force and energy of mind, powerful reasoning faculties, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, united to a very kind, frank, and open disposition—a brave and manly character—and a most gentlemanly demeanour on all occasions ; all of which we know to have won for you the esteem of the highest members of the faculty, as well as the humblest tyro of your class,—the class being but too proud to have it in their power to testify to your abilities as their teacher, and your attainments as a scholar and physician.

Wishing you every happiness and success in life, we have the honour to remain, most respected Sir, your obedient servants,

WILLIAM MARSHALL,

*President of the Meeting, for self and others concerned.*





